



County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

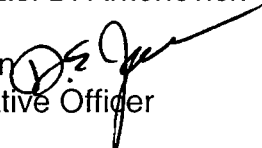
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

June 28, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen 
Chief Administrative Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

SB 308 (Simitian), as amended on May 3, 2005, would allow counties the option, upon adoption of a resolution by a county board of supervisors, to increase recording fees on real estate documents up to \$2 to fund programs to deter, investigate, and prosecute civil proceedings involving the financial abuse of elder and dependent adults through fraudulent real estate transactions.

This program is modeled on existing law which permits counties to increase the recording fees on real estate transactions by \$2 for distribution to the District Attorney, and local law enforcement to investigate and prosecute real estate fraud crimes. The County has participated in the existing program for nine years. However, none of the revenue generated by the fee is available to the Department of Mental Health's Public Guardian Bureau. The Public Guardian works with Adult Protective Services and County Counsel to seek civil remedies for victims of elder abuse. The Registrar-Recorder's staff indicates that the existing program generated \$6 million in FY 2004-05. Adoption of this new program could be expected to generate a similar amount for the Public Guardian and County Counsel for the civil prosecution of fraudulent real estate transactions.

SB 308 is identical to County-supported AB 2783 (Simitian), which was vetoed by the Governor on September 29, 2004, indicating that it was premature until the Office of Emergency Services (OES) had completed a review of programs currently in place to protect the elderly and dependent adults from all forms of abuse. The author reports that OES has not yet formed the committee that will conduct this review, and estimates that it will be years before the review is complete, which in the author's view is too long to wait to solve this problem. Because this program would support a viable civil prosecution system to assist elder and dependent adult victims of real estate fraud, the Department of Mental Health recommends that the County support SB 308, and we concur. Consistent with County support for AB 2783 in 2004, **our Sacramento Advocates will support SB 308.**

SB 308 is sponsored by the author and supported by the California District Attorney's Association; California Welfare Directors Association; California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform; California State Bar, Trusts and Estates; Gray Panthers; California Association of Retired Americans; California State Association of Counties; Consumer Attorneys of California; Attorney General Bill Lockyer; California State Association of Public Administrators, Public Guardians, and Public Conservators; Council on Aging, Orange County; Council on Aging Contra, Costa County; Stanislaus County Department of Aging and Veterans Services; Stanislaus County Commission on Aging; California Bankers Association; Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors; Santa Clara County District Attorney; and the Los Angeles County District Attorney. It is opposed by the California Taxpayers Association.

SB 308 passed the Assembly Local Government Committee on June 23, 2005 by a vote of 5 to 1, and now proceeds to the Assembly Aging and Long Term Care Committee.

Status of County-Interest Legislation

County-supported AB 22 (Lieber), which would create the crime of human trafficking, was approved by the Senate Public Safety Committee on June 21, 2005 by a vote of 7 to 0, and now proceeds to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

County-supported AB 862 (Bass), which would direct the State Department of Corrections to provide information on how to modify child support orders to every inmate who is a parent of a minor, passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on June 21, 2005 by a vote of 5 to 0, and now proceeds to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 328 (Cedillo), which would allow the California Medical Assistance Commission (CMAC) to consider additional criteria when negotiating Medi-Cal inpatient payment rates for Good Samaritan Hospital, was held in the Assembly Health Committee on June 21, 2005 at the request of the chair, Assembly Member Wilma Chan. Assembly Member Keith Richman expressed concern for providing special consideration for one

hospital, when many other hospitals statewide are on the brink of collapse. He further indicated that the State needs to address the problem of the uninsured, including the 2.5 million people who are uninsured in Los Angeles County. Senator Gil Cedillo agreed to hold the bill in the Committee, pending the outcome of the Hospital Financing Waiver discussions. The County has no position on this bill.

County-supported SB 869 (Bowen), which would establish the Nurse-Family Partnership Program, and would require the State Department of Health Services to make grants available to counties to provide voluntary visiting nurse services to first-time pregnant, low-income mothers, their children and their families, passed the Assembly Health Committee on June 21, 2005, by a vote of 11 to 1, and now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:DW:DS:SZ:MS:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Local 660
All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations
Buddy Program Participants